



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 431**

January Session, 2003

Substitute Senate Bill No. 486

*Senate, April 17, 2003*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. WILLIAMS of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ANIMALS FROM THE CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-380f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) No pound shall sell or give away any unspayed or unneutered  
4 dog or cat to any person unless such pound receives forty-five dollars  
5 from the person buying or adopting such dog or cat. Funds received  
6 pursuant to this section shall be paid quarterly by the municipality  
7 into the animal population control account established under section  
8 22-380g. At the time of receipt of such payment, the pound shall  
9 provide a voucher, for the purpose of sterilization and vaccination  
10 benefits, as provided in section 22-380i, to the person buying or  
11 adopting such dog or cat. Such voucher shall be on a form provided by  
12 the commissioner and signed by the eligible owner. Such voucher shall  
13 become void after sixty days from the date of adoption unless a

14 participating veterinarian certifies that the dog or cat is medically unfit  
15 for surgery. Such certification shall be on a form provided by the  
16 commissioner and specify a date by which such dog or cat may be fit  
17 for sterilization. If the surgery is performed more than thirty days after  
18 such specified date, the voucher shall become void. In the case of a dog  
19 or cat that has been previously sterilized or is permanently medically  
20 unfit for sterilization, as determined by a participating veterinarian,  
21 the voucher shall be void and the eligible owner may apply to the  
22 commissioner for a refund in the amount of forty-five dollars.

23 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
24 no pound shall receive forty-five dollars from the Connecticut  
25 Humane Society for any unspayed or unneutered cat or dog that is  
26 given by such pound to the Connecticut Humane Society, provided  
27 such cat or dog is spayed or neutered by the Connecticut Humane  
28 Society prior to the adoption of such animal by any person. Such  
29 sterilization shall not be required prior to the time of adoption if a  
30 licensed veterinarian employed by the Connecticut Humane Society  
31 certifies that the cat or dog is medically unfit for surgery. Such  
32 certification shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and  
33 specify a date by which such cat or dog may be medically fit for  
34 sterilization. The Connecticut Humane Society shall provide to the  
35 person adopting such animal a voucher for sterilization that specifies  
36 the date by which such cat or dog may be medically fit for sterilization.  
37 If the surgery is performed more than thirty days after such specified  
38 date, the voucher shall become void and the owner shall pay a fee of  
39 forty-five dollars to the Connecticut Humane Society which shall be  
40 transferred by the Connecticut Humane Society to the pound that gave  
41 such cat or dog to the Connecticut Humane Society. In the case of a cat  
42 or dog that is permanently medically unfit for sterilization, as  
43 determined by a licensed veterinarian employed by the Connecticut  
44 Humane Society, no such fee shall be charged.

45 Sec. 2. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

47     (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or  
 48 dentistry until he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-199.  
 49 A person shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or  
 50 dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds himself out as  
 51 being able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or  
 52 prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
 53 physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by any means  
 54 or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or  
 55 prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
 56 physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in accordance with  
 57 applicable state and federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane  
 58 Society and the floating of teeth in horses by persons experienced in  
 59 that practice shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary  
 60 medicine. For the purposes of this section, "floating teeth" means using  
 61 hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on a  
 62 horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and  
 63 cheeks and to improve chewing food, but does not include treating  
 64 decay, tumors or extracting teeth.

65     (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, licensure shall  
 66 not be required of veterinary technicians employed by the Connecticut  
 67 Humane Society when such technicians administer vaccinations to  
 68 animals owned by the Connecticut Humane Society provided such  
 69 technicians are under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**ENV**     *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Section 1 exempts the Connecticut Humane Society (CHS) from paying the fee to the animal population control account of the Department of Agriculture for a voucher to sterilize and vaccinate cats and dogs if CHS sterilizes the animal or penalizes the new owners for not sterilizing an animal under certain conditions. No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Section 2 exempts veterinary technicians employed by the CHS from the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine when administering vaccinations under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to animals owned by the CHS. No resulting fiscal impact is anticipated for the Department of Public Health.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB 486

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ANIMALS FROM THE CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY*****SUMMARY:**

This bill exempts the Connecticut Humane Society (CHS) from paying a pound the required \$45 fee for a voucher to sterilize (i.e., spay or neuter) and vaccinate cats or dogs when the pound gives it an animal, if CHS (1) sterilizes the animal before adoption or (2) subjects adoptive owners to a penalty for not sterilizing a cat and dog that was previously unfit for surgery 30 days after a veterinarian says it is fit.

The bill also allows CHS veterinary technicians to vaccinate CHS-owned animals, under the supervision of a veterinarian, without violating the prohibition on the practice of veterinarian medicine without a license.

**MEDICALLY UNFIT ANIMALS*****Failure to Sterilize 30 Days after Animal is Medically Fit for Surgery***

By law, people who adopt a dog or cat from a state or town pound or a veterinary clinic or commercial kennel where a town or animal rescue organization has placed it must pay a \$45 fee. Towns must deposit quarterly into the state animal population control account for payment to participating veterinarians.

When someone adopts a dog or cat, the pound gives him a voucher for payment toward the animal's sterilization. If he has paid the \$45 fee he can use the voucher in the 60 days following the date he acquired the animal to pay a veterinarian to sterilize and vaccinate it. But surgery can be postponed for an animal that is not fit for the procedure.

A dog or cat is considered medically unfit for surgery if a veterinarian certifies that surgery may place its life in danger or it is under six months old. The veterinarian must specify when the animal may be

ready for sterilization, and the voucher becomes void if surgery is not performed within 30 days of that date.

The pet owner may apply for a refund of the \$45 fee if an adopted dog or cat was previously sterilized or a veterinarian determines it is permanently unfit for the procedure.

Under the bill, CHS must give the owner a voucher to use for sterilization if a CHS veterinarian certifies the animal is medically unfit for surgery at the time of adoption. The voucher must specify a date when the animal will be fit, and the owner must pay CHS \$45 if he fails to have the animal sterilized 30 days after that date. The voucher is also voided. CHS must transfer the \$45 to the pound that gave it the animal. If a CHS veterinarian determines an animal is permanently unfit, no fee is charged.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 3